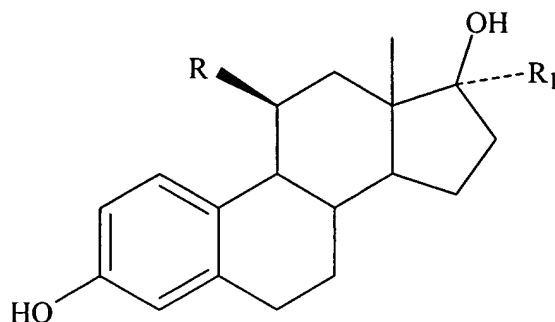


Claims:

1. A compound according to the chemical structure:



Where R is a $-(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{CYR}^1$ group, a $-(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{YCR}^2$ group, a $-(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{CR}^3$ group, or a $-(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{XR}^4$ group,

R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 are each independently a C_1 - C_6 linear, branch-chained or cyclo-alkyl group;

R_1 is H, CH_3 , a vinyl group ($-\text{CH}=\text{CH}_2$), or an ethynyl group ($-\text{C}\equiv\text{CH}$);

X is O or S and Y is O (preferably, X is O), and

n is from 1 to 3.

2. The compound according to claim 1 wherein R is an ester or thioester group and R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 are each independently a C_1 - C_5 linear, branch-chained or cyclo-alkyl group.

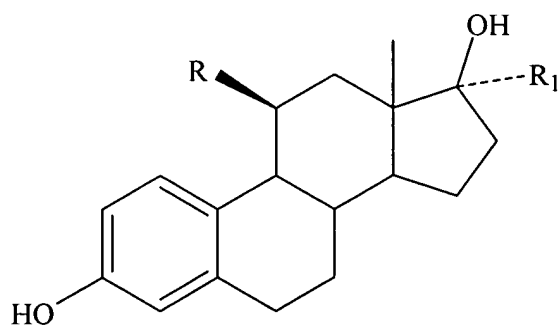
3. The compound according to claim 1 wherein X is O.

4. The compound according to claim 1 wherein X is O and R_1 is an ethynyl group.

5. The compound according to claim 1 wherein when R is an ester group and n is 1, and R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 have at least two carbon atoms.

6. The compound according to claim 1 wherein when R is a keto, thioketo, ether or thioether group, n is 1, and R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 have at least three carbon atoms.

7. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to the structure:



Where R is a $-(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{CYR}^1$ group, a $-(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{YCR}^2$ group, a $-(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{CR}^3$ group, or a $-(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{XR}^4$ group,

R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 are each independently a C_1 - C_6 linear, branch-chained or cyclo-alkyl group;

R_1 is H, CH_3 , a vinyl group, or an ethynyl group;

X is O or S and Y is O; and

n is from 1 to 3; optionally, in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, additive or excipient.

8. The composition according to claim 7 wherein R is an ester or thioester group

and R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 are independently selected from a C_1 - C_5 linear, branch-chained or cyclo- alkyl group.

9. The compound according to claim 7 wherein X is O.
10. The compound according to claim 1 wherein X is O and R_1 is an ethynyl group.
11. The compound according to claim 1 wherein when R is an ester group and n is 1, and R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 have at least two carbon atoms.
12. The compound according to claim 1 wherein when R is a keto, thioketo, ether or thioether group, n is 1, and R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 have at least three carbon atoms.
13. A method of treating the symptomology of menopause in a patient in need thereof comprising administering to said patient an effective of a compound according to claim 1.
14. The method according to claim 13 wherein said symptomology is osteoporosis.
15. The method according to claim 13 wherein said symptomology is high blood levels of cholesterol and/or LDL.
16. A method of reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease in a menopausal patient comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 to said patient.

17. A method of treating a breast cancer patient in need thereof with an agent to which said cancer favorably responds, said method comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 to said patient.

18. A method of reducing the likelihood that breast cancer will occur or recur in a patient where an occurrence or recurrence of breast cancer is likely, said method comprising administering to said patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.